

Date/Time Stamp:

**Post-Travel Filing Instructions:** Complete this form within 30 days of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the **Office of Public Records in 232 Hart Building.**

RECEIVED  
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE  
PUBLIC RECORDS

2019 JUN 21 PM 4:39

In compliance with Rule 35.2(a) and (c), I make the following disclosures with respect to travel expenses that have been or will be reimbursed/paid for me. I also certify that I have attached:

- ☒ The **original** *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* (Form RE-1), **AND**  
☒ A **copy** of the *Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form* with all attachments (itinerary, invitee list, etc.)

Private Sponsor(s) (list all): The Atlantic Council of the United States

Travel date(s): May 25, 2019 - June 1, 2019

Name of accompanying family member (if any): N/A

Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child

IF THE COST OF LODGING DID NOT INCREASE DUE TO THE ACCOMPANYING SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT CHILD, ONLY INCLUDE LODGING COSTS IN EMPLOYEE EXPENSES. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

**Expenses for Employee:**

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
<input type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Actual Amount	\$2,816.97	\$799.68	\$375.16	N/A

**Expenses for Accompanying Spouse or Dependent Child (if applicable):**

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
<input type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimate <input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amount	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

cc Provide a description of all meetings and events attended. See Senate Rule 35.2(c)(6). (Attach additional pages if  
 cv necessary.): See final program on additional pages attached separately.  
 cn

See final program on additional pages attached separately.

6/21/19  
(Date)

T. Michael Andrews  
(Printed name of traveler)

*T. H. A.*  
(Signature of traveler)

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER:

I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.

6/21/19  
(Date)

*(Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer)*

Mr. Michael Andrews  
Staff Director  
Committee on Indian Affairs  
United States Senate

April 18, 2019

I am delighted to invite you to participate in the Atlantic Council's Balkans Forward Staff Delegation, which will take place from **May 25 to June 1, 2019** and will visit Kosovo, Albania, Serbia, and Montenegro.

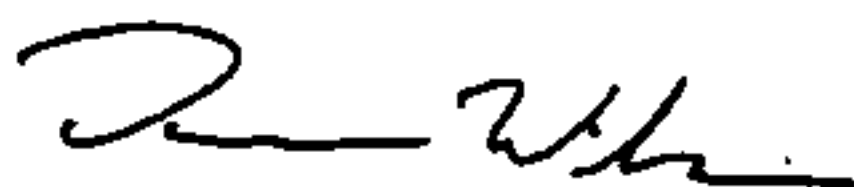
The purpose of the staff delegation visit to the region is to build greater awareness and understanding among congressional staff of the challenges and opportunities facing the Western Balkans, support informed US policy toward the region, and help foster a new generation of policymakers and experts on the Balkans. The week-long visit will allow participants to meet with a broad cross-section of decision-makers and stakeholders, including senior government and opposition officials, civil society and next generation leaders, and representatives from the private sector from across the Balkan countries, and thus enable them to gain a deeper understanding of key issues affecting Southeastern Europe. Substantively, the program will cover issues related to regional security, economic development, crime and corruption, institutional and capacity building, as well as US policy and transatlantic cooperation in the region.

The delegation is being organized by the Atlantic Council as part of its Balkans Forward Initiative, which is a unique, coordinated effort to foster a democratic, secure, and prosperous Western Balkans firmly integrated into the transatlantic community. The Balkans Forward Initiative provides analysis on regional developments, organizes delegations to the region, develops strategy and policy recommendations, and regularly convenes relevant actors and leaders.

Given your role as a Staff Director for the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and your senior advisory role with Senator Hoeven, we would be delighted if you agreed to join the delegation visit to the Western Balkans from May 25 through June 2. The Balkans Forward Staff Delegation Trip will of course adhere to all the ethics requirements of the United States Senate.

I would be grateful if you could let us know whether you can participate. Our Senior Fellow Damir Marusic and Associate Director Jörn Fleck will manage this delegation and are your points of contact. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to either Damir at [DMarusic@AtlanticCouncil.org](mailto:DMarusic@AtlanticCouncil.org) or Jörn at [JFleck@AtlanticCouncil.org](mailto:JFleck@AtlanticCouncil.org).

Best,



Damon Wilson  
Executive Vice President, Programs and Strategy

## PRIVATE SPONSOR TRAVEL CERTIFICATION FORM

This form must be completed by any private entity offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to Senate Members, officers, or employees (Senate Rule 35, clause 2). Each sponsor of a fact-finding trip must sign the completed form. The trip sponsor(s) must provide a copy of the completed form to each invited Senate traveler, who will then forward it to the Ethics Committee with any other required materials. The trip sponsor(s) should NOT submit the form directly to the Ethics Committee. Please consult the accompanying instructions for more detailed definitions and other key information.

The Senate Member, officer, or employee **MUST** also provide a copy of this form, along with the appropriate travel authorization and reimbursement form, to the Office of Public Records (OPR), Room 232 of the Hart Building, within thirty (30) days after the travel is completed.

1. Sponsor(s) of the trip (please list all sponsors): Atlantic Council of the United States (Atlantic Council)
2. Description of the trip: Balkans Forward Congressional Staff Delegation to the Western Balkans  
(see point 2 on additional pages for more information).
3. Dates of travel: May 25 - June 1, 2019
4. Place of travel: Pristina & Prizren, Kosovo; Tirana, Albania; Belgrade, Serbia; Budva, Montenegro
5. Name and title of Senate invitees: See point 5 on additional pages
6. I *certify* that the trip fits one of the following categories:
  - ☒ (A) The sponsor(s) are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal and do not retain or employ registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.
  - OR
  - ☐ (B) The sponsor or sponsors are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, but retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal and the trip meets the requirements of Senate Rule 35.2(a)(2)(A)(i) or (ii) (*see question 9*).
7. ☒ I *certify* that the trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.  
AND  
☒ I *certify* that the sponsor or sponsors will not accept funds or in-kind contributions earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.
8. I *certify* that:
  - ☒ The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except for *de minimis* lobbyist involvement.
  - AND
  - ☒ The traveler will not be accompanied on the trip by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except as provided for by Committee regulations relating to lobbyist accompaniment (*see question 9*).



9. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 6(B)**

I *certify* that if the sponsor or sponsors retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, one of the following scenarios applies:

☐ (A) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and one overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip.

**OR**

☐ (B) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and two overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip (see questions 6 and 10).

**OR**

☐ (C) The trip is being sponsored only by an organization or organizations designated under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.

10. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 9(B)**

If the trip includes two overnight stays, please explain why the second night is practically required for Senate invitees to participate in the travel:

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11. ☒ An itinerary for the trip is attached to this form. I *certify* that the attached itinerary is a detailed (hour-by-hour), complete, and final itinerary for the trip.

12. Briefly describe the role of each sponsor in organizing and conducting the trip:

See point 12 on additional pages for more information

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13. Briefly describe the stated mission of each sponsor and how the purpose of the trip relates to that mission:

See point 13 on additional pages for more information

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14. Briefly describe each sponsor's prior history of sponsoring congressional trips:

See point 14 on additional pages for more information

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15. Briefly describe the educational activities performed by each sponsor (other than sponsoring congressional trips):

**See point 15 on additional pages for more information**

**16. Total Expenses for Each Participant:**

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith estimate  <input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts	\$2,800  (See point 16 on additional pages for detailed break-down)	\$794  (See point 16 on additional pages for detailed break-down)	\$480  (See point 16 on additional pages for detailed break-down)	None

17. State whether a) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation or b) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *specifically with regard* to congressional participation:

**The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized specifically with regard to congressional participation.**

**18. Reason for selecting the location of the event or trip**

**See point 18 on the additional pages for more information**

**19. Name and location of hotel or other lodging facility:**

**See point 19 on the additional pages for more information**

20. Reason(s) for selecting hotel or other lodging facility:

**See point 20 on the additional pages for more information**

21. Describe how the daily expenses for lodging, meals, and other expenses provided to trip participants compares to the maximum per diem rates for official Federal Government travel:

See point 21 on the additional pages for more information

22. Describe the type and class of transportation being provided. Indicate whether coach, business-class or first class transportation will be provided. If first-class fare is being provided, please explain why first-class travel is necessary:

See point 22 on the additional pages for more information

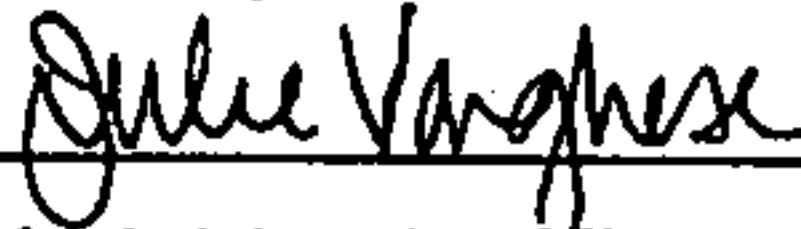
23. ☒ I represent that the travel expenses that will be paid for or reimbursed to Senate invitees do not include expenditures for recreational activities, alcohol, or entertainment (other than entertainment provided to all attendees as an integral part of the event, as permissible under Senate Rule 35).

24. List any entertainment that will be provided to, paid for, or reimbursed to Senate invitees and explain why the entertainment is an integral part of the event:

None

25. I hereby *certify* that the information contained herein is true, complete and correct. (For trips involving more than one sponsor, you *must* include a completed signature page for each additional sponsor):

Signature of Travel Sponsor:



Name and Title: Julie Varghese, Chief Administrative Officer

Name of Organization: The Atlantic Council of the United States

Address: 1030 15th Street NW, 12th Floor, Washington D.C. 20005

Telephone Number: 202 599 8637

Fax Number:

E-mail Address: jvarghese@atlanticcouncil.org

11/11/2010 10:10 AM



## Atlantic Council

## FUTURE EUROPE INITIATIVE

## Balkans Forward Congressional Staff Delegation

**May 25 - June 1, 2019**

• Pristina • Tirana • Belgrade • Budva •

## Final Program

**Balkans Forward Congressional  
Fellowship Trip to Pristina, Tirana,  
Belgrade, and Budva**

May 25 – June 1, 2019

Follow us @ACFutureEurope

Join the conversation using #BalkansForward

**Final Agenda**

**Saturday, May 25**

5:35 p.m. **Depart Washington DC (IAD) for Pristina (via Vienna)**

Location: Washington Dulles International Airport  
Flight number: OS 94  
Airline: Austrian Airlines

**Sunday, May 26**

8:40 a.m. **Arrive Vienna International Airport (VIE)**

10:10 a.m. **Depart VIE for Pristina**

Location: Vienna International Airport  
Flight number: OS 777  
Airline: Austrian Airlines

11:40 a.m. **Arrive Pristina International Airport Adem Jashari**

**Meet Jörn Fleck and Damir Marusic at arrivals**

Transfer to Hotel

Hotel check-in

**Hotel Nartel**

Kalabria Bll B2 Llam B

Pristina, Kosovo

Telephone: +38338558855

Web site: <http://www.hotelnartel.com/en/Home>

080038558855



## Sunday, May 26 – continued

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Welcome Lunch – Logistics Brief**

**Location:** Hotel Nartel

**Briefers:** **Jörn Fleck**, *Associate Director, Future Europe Initiative, Atlantic Council*

**Damir Marusic**, *Nonresident Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council*

**Topics:** Briefing on the program and logistics

**Relevance:** Staffers received an overview of the program and key logistical issues.

**Downtime**

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. **Country briefing with The Hon. Philip S. Kosnett, Ambassador of the United States to the Republic of Kosovo**

**Location:** Hotel Nartel

**Briefers:** **Ambassador Philip Kosnett**  
US Embassy Staff

**Topics:** Background briefing on meetings with Kosovo government officials and US government positions and assessments

**Relevance:** The Ambassador briefed the staffers on the latest domestic political developments in Kosovo and US government positions and assessments related to current political issues in the country. The briefing covered the ongoing Dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia, the Kosovar tariffs on Serbian products, and different positions within the government on the way forward. The discussion also addressed challenges in domestic reform efforts, crime and corruption trends, and the government leaders the delegation was scheduled to meet the following day.

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. **H.E. Enver Hoxhaj, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, of the Republic of Kosovo**

**Location:** Hotel Nartel

**Topics:** Domestic politics, Kosovo-Serbia Dialogue, EU and NATO perspective

**Relevance:** Deputy Prime Minister Hoxhaj discussed his perspective on the domestic political dynamics, the tariffs on Serbia, and the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue as well as the EU perspective for Kosovo. Hoxhaj also fielded questions from the staffers regarding a wide range of domestic policy issues, including in his area of education policy.

7:45 p.m. **Meet in hotel lobby for transfer to dinner**

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## Monday, May 27 – continued

### **\*Depart hotel with luggage for EU Delegation meeting\***

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. **H.E. Nataliya Apostolova, *EU Special Representative to the Republic of Kosovo***

**Location:** European Union Office in Kosovo  
Kosova Street 1,  
Pristina 10000  
Republic of Kosovo

**Topics:** EU assessments of the domestic reform agenda, Kosovo's EU perspective, Kosovo-Serbia Dialogue

**Relevance:** The meeting with the EU Special Representative, effectively the EU Ambassador in the country, and her senior Embassy team provided the staffers EU's assessments of Kosovo's progress on domestic political, economic, and institutional reform on its path toward candidate status for EU accession. The staffers also discussed the EU's outlook on the EU-facilitated Kosovo-Serbia dialogue and the April 29 Berlin meeting with all six Balkan countries, which included the Kosovar and Serbian presidents. Staffers were able to compare the EU assessment with viewpoints expressed by Kosovo government representatives and better evaluate progress.

3:30 p.m. **Depart Pristina for Tirana by bus**

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. **Travel Debrief from Kosovo/ Briefing on Albania while in transit**

**Briefers:** **Damon Wilson, *Executive Vice President, Programs and Strategy, Atlantic Council***  
**Judy Ansley, *Senior Advisor, Atlantic Council***

**Topics:** Kosovo debrief, briefing on Albanian politics, economic situation, and domestic reform, US-Albanian relations

**Relevance:** Mr. Wilson and Ms. Ansley led a general discussion with the staffers on their key takeaways and impressions from the meetings in Pristina. They then provided an overview of the program in Tirana and background on the latest domestic developments with regards to the stand-off between the government and opposition in Albania as well as on US-Albanian relations and Albania's role in NATO.

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## Monday, May 27 – continued

8:15 p.m.

**Arrive at Tirana**

**Hotel check-in**

**The Plaza**

Rruga 28 Nentori, 1001

Tirana, Albania

Telephone: +355 (0) 422 112 21

Web site: <https://www.plazatirana.com/>

8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. **Working dinner with Mr. Erion Veliaj, Mayor of Tirana, Republic of Albania**

**Key Participants:**

**Leyla Moses-Ones, Chargé d'Affaires, U.S. Embassy to Albania**

**Arbjan Mazniku, Deputy Mayor, City of Tirana, Albania**

**Location:** The Plaza, Restaurant, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

**Topics:** Local policy challenges and reform efforts in Tirana, preview of the June local elections, Albania's domestic political situation

**Relevance:** The working dinner provided an opportunity for the staffers to discuss local efforts at governance and economic reform in Tirana as well as infrastructure and other challenges with the mayor and deputy mayor of the city. They were also able to gain a better understanding of a next generation local political leader's perspectives on the recent developments in Albanian domestic politics and the upcoming June local elections and how they will impact national political dynamics.

**Programming Ends**

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## Tuesday, May 28

7:15 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. **Country Briefing with Leyla Moses-Ones, *Chargé d'Affaires*, US Embassy to Albania**

**Location:** The Plaza Hotel, Private Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

**Briefers:** **Chargé d'Affaires Leyla Moses-Ones**  
US Embassy Staff

**Topics:** Background briefing on meetings with Albanian government officials and US government positions and assessments

**Relevance:** The Chargé d'Affaires and her senior Embassy team briefed the staffers on the latest developments relating to the current political situation in the country, the ongoing deadlock between the government and opposition parties, and the Albanian counterparts the delegation will meet the following day. The Embassy team also shared US government positions, assessments, and concerns related to the domestic situation and key policy challenges facing Albania.

8:15 a.m. **Meet in hotel lobby for transfer to government meetings**

8:30 a.m.- 9:45 a.m. **H.E. Ilir Meta, *President of the Republic of Albania***

**Location:** Presidential Palace  
Rruga e Elbasanit,  
Tirana 1044, Albania

**Topics:** Albania's domestic political situation, foreign policy priorities

**Relevance:** The president provided an overview of his perspective and position on the current domestic political situation and stalemate between the government and the opposition. The delegation also discussed Albania's domestic reform efforts and the pending EU decision on Albania's accession candidacy.

10:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m. **H.E. Edi Rama, *Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania***

**Location:** Office of the Prime Minister  
Blv. Dëshmorët e Kombit 1  
Tirana, Albania

**Topics:** Albania's domestic political situation, foreign policy priorities, US-Albania relations, Albania's EU candidacy

**Relevance:** The meeting allowed the staffers to gain a deeper understanding of the Prime Minister's domestic priorities with regard to the current political situation in Albania and the stand-off with the opposition. The prime minister and the group also discussed the government's strategy with regard to the upcoming decision on Albania's EU accession candidacy and priorities with regard to domestic reform. The conversation furthermore covered Albania's NATO commitments and challenges in the wider Balkan region.

## Tuesday, May 28 – continued

11:15 a.m.- 12:15 p.m. H.E. Gramoz Ruçi, *President of the Parliament of the Republic Albania*

**Location:** Parliament of the Republic of Albania  
Boulevard "Dëshmorët e Kombit" Nr.4  
Tirana, Albania

**Topics:** Albania's domestic political situation, EU candidacy

**Relevance:** The staffers were able to hear the viewpoint of the Parliament's President on the domestic political situation and possible solutions to the current stalemate between the government and the opposition, with particular regard to the boycott of parliament by the opposition. The delegation was also able to discuss parliamentary dynamics with regard to the country's EU candidacy status, domestic reforms, and the upcoming EU announcement on accession negotiations.

12:30 p.m.- 2:00 p.m. **Lunch Discussion with Members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament of Albania**

**Key Participants:**

**Dr. Mimi Kodheli**, *Chairwoman*, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Parliament of Albania  
**Rudina Hajdari**, *Member of Parliament*  
**Taulant Balla**, *Member of Parliament*  
**Ditmir Bushati**, *Member of Parliament*  
**Ervin Bushati**, *Member of Parliament and Chairman*, Albanian Parliamentary Delegation to the OSCE

**Location:** Sky Tower Tirana  
Rruga Ibrahim Rugova, Tirana 1000, Albania

**Topics:** Albania's foreign policy priorities, US-Albania relations, EU candidacy outlook

**Relevance:** The discussion with the chairwoman of parliament's committee on foreign affairs and several committee members allowed staffers to gain a better understanding of parliamentary priorities and approaches with regard to regional policy challenges in the Western Balkans and key foreign policy issues for Albania. The discussion also covered key issues in US-Albania relations, the country's role in NATO positions and priorities on potential EU accession negotiations. The multi-party group MPs also offered their perspectives on the domestic political situation.

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## Tuesday, May 28 – continued

2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. **American Chamber of Commerce Albania**

**Key Participants:**

Mr. Enjo Jaço, *President, AmCham Albania*

Mr. Reshard Kellici, *Secretary of the Board*

Mr. Dael Dervishi, *Member of the Board*

Mrs. Eni Xheko, *Member of the Board*

Mr. Ilir Trimi, *Executive Director, AmCham Albania*

**Location:** Sky Tower Tirana  
Rruga Ibrahim Rugova, Tirana 1000, Albania

**Topics:** US private sector engagement and investment in Albania, key US private sector priorities and concerns

**Relevance:** The staffers learned first-hand about the profile of US private sector activity and investment in Albania from American business representatives. The group also discussed key US private sector priorities for domestic reform and concerns about hurdles for business in the country.

3:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. **Meetings with Albanian opposition party representatives, including:**

**Key Participants:**

Lulzim Basha, *Chair, Democratic Party (DP)*

Fatmir Mediu, *Chair, Republican Party*

Klajda Gjoshaj, *Deputy Chair, Socialist Movement for Integration (LSI)*

**Location:** Democratic Party Headquarters

**Topics:** Albania's domestic political situation, EU candidacy

**Relevance:** The staffers were able to hear the viewpoints of the leaders of the country's three largest opposition parties on the domestic political situation and possible solutions to the current stalemate between the government and the opposition. The group discussed international concerns about the situation and possible approaches to move past the current stalemate. The delegation was also able to discuss opposition perspectives with regard to the country's pending EU candidacy status, domestic reforms, and the upcoming EU announcement on accession negotiations as well as the impact of the domestic situation on the above.

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## Tuesday, May 28 – continued

4:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. **Roundtable with U.S. Embassy Albanian Youth Council facilitated by Lucija Straley**

**Location:** American Corner in the National Library

**Topics:** Youth priorities and perspectives with regard to Albania's future

**Relevance:** The staffers met with Albanian college students, young professionals, and youth activists to discuss their perspectives on the key challenges facing the younger generation of Albanians and the country as a whole. The group discussed everyday concerns of young Albanians, civic and political engagement, and issues regarding professional prospects, the education sector, and the challenge of the brain drain. The staff delegation was also able to gain a better understanding of attitudes among young Albanians toward politics and the current political situation in Albania.

### Walk to The Plaza

6:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m. **Roundtable Discussion with Albanian Think Tank Representatives and Policy Experts on regional issues and cooperation in the Western Balkans**

#### **Participants:**

**Odeti Barbullushi**, *Adviser to the PM/Scholar*

**Remzi Lani**, Albanian Media Institute (ISHM)

**Sotirag Hroni**, Institute for Democracy and Mediation

**Gjergj Vrumo**, Institute for Democracy and Mediation

**Albert Rakipi**, Albania Institute for International Studies

**Alba Cela**, Albania Institute for International Studies

**Fatjona Mejdini**, *Journalist*

**Ebi Spahiu**, Embassy of The Netherlands

**Krisela Hackaj**, Center for International Development

**Epidamn Zeqo**, *Independent Researcher*

**Megi Llubani**, *OSCE Security Expert*

**Location:** Private Room, The Plaza

**Topics:** Albania's domestic political situation, domestic reform agenda, Albania's EU perspective

**Relevance:** The staffers were able to hear the perspectives of a diverse mix of civil society and think tank representatives on the current domestic political situation, domestic policy challenges, such as crime and corruption, and the status of existing political, economic, and institutional reform efforts. The staffers also discussed non-governmental perspectives on the country's path toward the EU, the impending decision on accession negotiations, and how a potential delay of the decision may impact Albanian politics and society.



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**8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Country Briefing with The Hon. Kyle Randolph Scott, Ambassador of the United States to the Republic of Serbia**

**Location:** Elytis Lounge, 7<sup>th</sup> floor, Metropol Palace

**Briefers:** Ambassador Kyle Randolph Scott  
US Embassy Staff

**Topics:** Background briefing on meetings with Serbian government officials and US government positions and assessments of Serbian domestic politics and foreign policy

**Relevance:** Ambassador Scott briefed the staffers on current Serbian domestic and foreign policy issues and the ongoing Dialogue between Serbia and Kosovo. The discussion also covered the latest US government positions and assessments.

**Meet in lobby for transfer to government meetings. Please bring passports.**

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Dr. Tanja Mišćević**, *Head of the Negotiating Team for the Accession of the Republic of Serbia to the European Union*

**Location:** Government Building  
4th Floor, Room 155  
11 Nemanjina St  
Belgrade, Serbia

**Topics:** Serbia's EU accession candidacy and negotiations, domestic reform agenda

**Relevance:** This meeting with the head of Serbia's EU accession negotiation team and her staff allowed the delegation to gain a better understanding of the perspectives of the Serbian government on progress and key challenges in the accession talks as well as its assessment of EU positions and dynamics with regard to enlargement. Both sides also discussed the release of the EU progress report on Serbia later that day and the related issues on the domestic reform agenda.





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**11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Roundtable with Civil Society Representatives**

**Location:** U.S. Embassy Belgrade  
92 Bulevar kneza Aleksandra Karadjordjevica  
11040 Belgrade, Serbia

**Topics:** Human rights, freedom of the media, governance and institutional reform

**Relevance:** The staffers met with a cross-section of Serbian civil society representatives to discuss their assessments of media freedom and the general media landscape in Serbia, the civil liberties and human rights situation in the country related to political activism and minorities, and crime and corruption as well as the work of lawyers on these issues. The exchange of views allowed the staffers to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges facing Serbia in these areas and hear assessments from independent, non-government experts, allowing them to compare these with government assessments shared in prior meetings.

**\*Transfer to hotel for checkout. Please prepare bags for departure\***

**1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Briefing over light lunch with H.E. Sem Fabrizi, EU Ambassador to the Republic of Serbia**

**Location:** Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia  
Vladimira Popovica St. 40, 5th floor  
(GTC Avenue building, block 19a)  
11070 New Belgrade, Republic of Serbia

**Topics:** Serbia's EU accession candidacy and negotiations, domestic reform agenda, Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue

**Relevance:** The EU Ambassador in Serbia and his team briefed the staffers on the EU report on Serbia's progress in the accession negotiations, released the previous day. In addition to the EU's assessments of Serbia's accession negotiations, the group also discussed progress in its related domestic policy reform efforts, and the outlook of the EU-facilitated Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue after the Berlin Summit.

### Transfer to Digital Serbia Initiative

## Thursday, May 30 – continued

3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.    **Meeting with Digital Serbia Initiative**

**Location:**        Spanskih Boraca 3 Street, 3rd floor  
Novi Beograd (Microsoft Development Centre Serbia)

**Topics:**           Serbian digital sector and digitization, competitiveness, and  
innovation policy, US-Serbia business links

**Relevance:**      The Digital Serbia Initiative is a non-governmental, non-profit  
organization advocating transformation of Serbia into a digital  
society and includes national, US, and other international digital  
companies. The meeting with the Digital Serbia Initiative offered  
the staffers an opportunity to learn about business perspectives  
on economic reform and digitization policies in the country.

4:30 p.m.                **Transfer to airport**

6:35 p.m.                **Depart Belgrade for Tivat**

Location: Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport  
Flight number: YM 203  
Airline: Montenegro Airlines

7:20 p.m.                **Arrive at Tivat Airport**

Transfer to Hotel

**Hotel Splendid**  
Becici bb, 85310,  
Budva, Montenegro  
Telephone: +382 33 773 777  
Web site: <https://montenegrostars.com/home-splendid>

Hotel Check in

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### Thursday, May 30 – continued

**8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Country Briefing over dinner with The Hon. Judy Rising Reinke, Ambassador of the United States to Montenegro and US Embassy Team**

**Location:** Restaurant, Hotel Splendid

**Briefers:** Ambassador Judy Rising Reinke  
US Embassy Staff

**Topics:** Official US positions and assessments on Montenegro

**Relevance:** The US Ambassador and her country team briefed the delegation on the latest developments in the domestic politics in Montenegro, the country's commitments in NATO, its path toward EU accession, and foreign policy challenges facing Podgorica. The Embassy briefing also covered US positions and assessments and prepared the staffers for their government meetings the following day.

**10:00 p.m. Programming Ends**

## Friday, May 31

**9:45 a.m. Meet in Lobby for Opening of To Be Secure Forum**

**10:00 a.m. Official Opening 2BS (to be secure) forum**

**Speaker:**  
**Duško Marković, Prime Minister, Montenegro**

**Location:** Conference Hall Petrović, Hotel Splendid

**Relevance:** President Milo Đukanović articulated the need, and his vision, for greater efforts throughout the Western Balkans to move beyond existing disputes, accelerate domestic reform, and for the countries in the region take a more cooperative approach to Euro-Atlantic integration.

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**10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Panel 1: “Western Balkans: Gremlins of the Past and Fairy Tales of the Future”**

### Keynotes:

**Milo Đukanović, President, Montenegro**

**Borut Pahor, President, Slovenia**

**Panelists:**

**Ali Aslan, Tv Presenter & Journalist, Germany**

**Marina Pendeš, Minister, Ministry Of Defense, Bosnia And Herzegovina**

**Thomas Silberhorn**, *Parliamentary State Secretary, Ministry Of Defense, Germany*

**Péter Sztáray**, *State Secretary For Security Policy, Ministry Of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungary*

**Igor Lukšić**, *Former Prime Minister And Minister Of Foreign Affairs And Director of SEE, PwC, Montenegro*

**Damon Wilson, Executive Vice President, Atlantic Council, USA**

**Location:** Conference Hall Petrović, Hotel Splendid

**Panel Topics:** *From the conference organizers: The Western Balkans have, like the rest of Europe, been experiencing "the very taste" of geopolitics, with growing influence of Russia, China and Turkey that are exercising their role and influence in the region through carefully crafted soft power "recipes" and offer different visions and frameworks for the region. But to be fair, many of the region's problems are still internal. From the Serbia-Kosovo dispute, ethnic tensions and divisions in Bosnia and Herzegovina to high corruption and unemployment rate and generally unenviable economic situation. These issues in combination with lurking external influences can have a crucial impact in shaping the future of this region. However, not everything is gloomy, Montenegro marks this year its second anniversary of NATO membership and has made important progress towards its EU membership. Following its steps, Macedonia represents a bright example that if there are political will and leadership, solutions are possible. It has managed to resolve, almost three decades long name dispute with Greece and is set to become 30th NATO member. Can Bosnia and Herzegovina follow these examples and find common ground among the entities in pushing the country towards European and Euro-Atlantic integration? What about future prospects of integration for Serbia?*

**Relevance:** The panel discussion offered the staff delegation a discussion and combination of perspectives from the region, Europe, and the United States on key themes and challenges – past, present, and future – facing the countries of Southeastern Europe and possible approaches to addressing them.



must remind ourselves that strong solidarity and commitment based on shared values among allies is what keeps us united and resilient to the diverse and multiple challenges we face and continue to face for many decades to come. As Benjamin Franklin put it: "We must, indeed, all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately."

**Relevance:** Staffers heard a combination of regional, US, and European policy-maker perspectives on the current and future role of NATO.

2:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. **Staff Delegation Debrief over lunch with Damon Wilson, Judy Ansley, and Damir Marusic**

**Location:** Restaurant Villa, Budva

**Briefers:** **Damon Wilson**, *Executive Vice President, Programs and Strategy*, Atlantic Council  
**Judy Ansley**, *Senior Advisor*, Atlantic Council  
**Damir Marusic**, *Nonresident Senior Fellow*, Atlantic Council

**Topics:** Key takeaways from the trip, impressions from the 2BS forum, feedback on trip

**Relevance:** Mr. Wilson, Ms. Ansley, and Mr. Marusic led a general discussion with the staffers on their key takeaways and impressions from the meetings in Montenegro, the panel discussions, and the trip overall. The staff delegation considered how the Balkans visit was applicable to their respective positions and how the lessons and perspectives gained would impact their future work. The lunch debrief also included a general feedback session on logistics, agenda, and the quality of meetings over the course of the trip.

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Panel 3: "Three Shades of Red: Russia, China and Turkey – Changing Global Power Dynamics?"**

**Speakers:**

**Bobo Lo**, *Independent Analyst and Associate Research Fellow*, Russia/NIS Center, IFRI, UK

**Theresa Fallon**, *Founder and Director*, Centre For Russia Europe Asia Studies, Belgium

**Pinar Akpinar**, *Scholar, Conflict Resolution and Mediation Stream*, Istanbul Policy Center, Turkey

**Vadym Chernysh**, *Minister*, Ministry of Temporarily Occupied Territories and Internally Displaced Persons, Ukraine

**Paul Bolt**, *Professor of Political Science*, US Air Force Academy, USA

**Location:** Conference Hall Petrović, Hotel Splendid

**Panel Topics:** *From the conference organizers:* For decades, the United States has been "a shining city upon a hill" that led and shaped international - unipolar order, peerless in its influence over the rest of the globe. But power constellations across the globe are shifting and the world order we know is struggling to endure these shifts. Rise of the new global and medium powers that deny important aspects of the world order, as well as the surge of many non-state



**Relevance:** Staffers heard a combination of regional, US, and European policy-maker perspectives on geopolitical competition in the Balkans as one of the most pressing challenges affecting the region.

**Meet in the lobby for transfer to Farewell Dinner**

## To Be Secure Main Dinner

**Bilateral Meeting with H.E. Srđan Darmanović, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro**

**Relevance:** The staffers were able to gain a better understanding of Montenegro's foreign policy priorities and challenges from the conversation with the foreign minister. The exchange of views also covered the country's plans for the next phase of its NATO membership and involvement as well as the challenge of foreign influence in the region.

## Programming Ends



## Saturday, June 1

8:00 a.m.	<b>Check out and Transfer to Tivat Airport</b>
8:30 a.m.	<b>Arrive at Tivat Airport</b>
10:05 a.m.	<b>Depart Tivat for Munich (MUC)</b>  Location: Tivat Airport Flight number: LH 1733 Airline: Lufthansa
11:50 a.m.	<b>Arrive Munich Airport (MUC)</b>
4:25 p.m.	<b>Depart Munich for Washington, D.C. (IAD)</b>  Location: Munich International Airport Flight number: LH 414 Airline: Lufthansa
7:30 p.m.	<b>Arrive at Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD)</b>

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**Atlantic Council**

FUTURE EUROPE INITIATIVE

## **Balkans Forward Congressional Staff Delegation**

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**May 25 - June 1, 2019**

**• Pristina • Tirana • Belgrade • Budva •**

## **Balkans Forward Congressional Fellowship Trip to Pristina, Tirana, Belgrade, and Budva**

May 25 – June 1, 2019

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## Agenda

## Saturday, May 25

**5:35 p.m. Flight departure to Pristina (via Vienna)**

Location: Washington Dulles International Airport  
Flight number: OS 94  
Airline: Austrian Airlines

## Sunday, May 26

8:40 a.m. Arrive Vienna International Airport (VIE)

**10:10 a.m. Depart VIE for Pristina**

Location: Vienna International Airport  
Flight number: OS 777  
Airline: Austrian Airlines

11:40 a.m. Arrive Pristina International Airport Adem Jashari

### Transfer to Hotel

## Hotel check-in

**Hotel Nartel**  
Kalabria Bil B2 Llam B  
Pristina, Kosovo  
Telephone: +38338558855  
Web site: <http://www.hotelnartel.com/en/Home>

**1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Downtime**

## Sunday, May 26 – continued

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Program briefing with Damon Wilson, Executive Vice President, Programs and Strategy, Atlantic Council**

**Location:** Hotel Nartel  
**Briefers:** **Damon Wilson**, Executive Vice President, Programs and Strategy, Atlantic Council  
**Damir Marusic**, Nonresident Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council  
**Topics:** Briefing on the program, key issues of the visit to the region, and the political, economic, and security situation in the Balkans.  
**Relevance:** Staffers will receive an overview of the program and the current situation in the region, serving to help familiarize them with relevant information. The briefing will also serve as part of their foundational understanding of the region and provide an opportunity to gain knowledge of the key issues impacting the Western Balkans in preparation for the following days. Damon Wilson and Damir Marusic are both experts on the Balkans.

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. **Country briefing over dinner with The Hon. Philip S. Kosnett, Ambassador of the United States to the Republic of Kosovo**

**Location:** Hotel Nartel  
**Briefers:** **Ambassador Philip Kosnett**  
US Embassy Staff  
**Topics:** Background briefing on meetings with Kosovo government officials and US government positions and assessments.  
**Relevance:** The briefing will familiarize staffers with the latest US government positions and assessment related to Kosovo, current political issues in the country, the ongoing Dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia, and the government leaders the delegation will meet the following day. The meeting will also allow staff to ask questions of the Embassy team to deepen their understanding of relevant issues ahead of the meetings with foreign counterparts.

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. **Meeting over dinner with the Geremia Hill Foreign Policy Forum**

**Location:** Hotel Nartel  
**Topics:** Kosovo foreign policy priorities, US-Kosovo relations, US policy in the wider Balkans region.  
**Relevance:** This roundtable discussion over dinner will bring the staff delegation together with think tank and other foreign policy experts from Kosovo to have a discussion on Kosovo's foreign policy priorities, regional relations, key issues in US-Kosovo relations, and perceptions of US policy in Kosovo and the region. The discussion will allow the staffers to gain a better understanding of non-government perspectives, perceptions, and priorities among Kosovars with regard to foreign and regional policy ahead of their government meetings the next day.

8:30 p.m. Transfer to Hotel

**Programing Ends**

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## Monday, May 27 – continued

10:50 a.m. – 11:20 a.m. **Meeting with H.E. Behgjet Pacolli,**  
*First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kosovo*

**Location:** Hotel Nartel,  
Kalabria Bli B2 Llam B  
Pristina, Kosovo

**Topics:** US-Kosovo relations, Kosovo foreign policy priorities, Kosovo-NATO/ EU relations.

**Relevance:** The meeting will familiarize staffers with Kosovo's foreign policy priorities and relations with the United States, the European Union, and NATO. The meeting will also allow staff to gain a deeper understanding of the foreign policy challenges facing the country.

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. **Meeting over Lunch with H.E. Nataliya Apostolova,**  
*EU Special Representative in Kosovo*

**Location:** European Union Office in Kosovo  
Kosova Street 1,  
P.O. Box 331, Pristina 10000  
Republic of Kosovo

**Topics:** Domestic reform agenda, Kosovo's EU perspective, Kosovo-Serbia Dialogue.

**Relevance:** The meeting with the EU Special Representative, effectively the EU Ambassador in the country, will allow staffers to gain an in-depth understanding of the EU's assessments of the Kosovo's progress on domestic political, economic, and institutional reform on its path toward candidate status for EU accession. Staffers will also be able to discuss the EU's outlook on the EU-facilitated Kosovo-Serbia dialogue and the April 29 Berlin meeting with all six Balkan countries, which included the Kosovar and Serbian presidents. Staffers will be able to compare the EU assessment with viewpoints expressed by Kosovo government representatives and better evaluate progress.

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **Military and Civilian Officials from KFOR Mission to Kosovo**

**Location:** KFOR Headquarters Support Group (HSG) Pristina  
Camp Film City  
10000, Pristina, Republic of Kosovo

**Topics:** KFOR role, security and law enforcement challenges in Kosovo.

**Relevance:** The meeting with KFOR military and civilian staff will familiarize staffers with the current role and priorities of the NATO-led international peacekeeping force which is responsible for establishing a secure environment in Kosovo. The delegation will also discuss current security challenges in the country and KFOR assessments, responses, and approaches.

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**Monday, May 27 – continued**

Transfer to Hotel (check out)

4:00 p.m.

## Depart Pristina for Tirana

**Transportation: Coach/ Bus**

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

### Travel Debrief from Kosovo/ Briefing on Albania while in transit

**Briefers:** **Damon Wilson**, Executive Vice President, Programs and Strategy, Atlantic Council

**Judy Ansley, Senior Advisor, Atlantic Council**

**Topics:** Kosovo debrief, briefing on Albanian politics, economic situation, and domestic reform, US-Albanian relations.

**Relevance:** Staffers will have an opportunity to compare and discuss key takeaways and impressions from Kosovo meetings. They will also receive an overview of the program in Tirana and background on the current political situation and protests in Albania as well as on US-Albanian relations and Albania's role in NATO. This will serve to familiarize them with relevant information ahead of their meetings with Albanian counterparts. Damon Wilson and Judy Ansley are both experts on the Balkans and Judy Ansley previously staffed President George W. Bush on his visit to Albania in her role as Deputy National Security Advisor at the time.

8:00 p.m.

## Arrive at Tirana

8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

**Working dinner with Mr. Erion Veliaj,**  
*Mayor of Tirana, Republic of Albania*

**Location:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bulevardi Zhan D'Ark, 1000 Tirana

**Topics:** Recent Developments in Albanian domestic politics, preview of the June local elections, Albania's EU candidacy

**Relevance:** The working dinner will provide an opportunity for the staffers to engage with a next generation local political leader and learn about the perspectives of a major local leader on the recent developments in Albanian domestic politics and the upcoming June local elections and how they impact domestic political dynamics. The dinner discussion will also allow the delegation to better understand how domestic reforms are being implemented at the local political level and how local leaders view the country's EU candidacy status ahead of the EU's June announcement on potential accession negotiations.

10:00 p.m.

### Transfer by bus

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## Hotel check-in

**Rruga 28 Nentori, 1001**

**Telephone: +355 (0) 422 112 21**

Web site: <https://www.plazatirana.com/>

**Tuesday, May 28**

**Location:** The Plaza Hotel

**Relevance:** The briefing will familiarize staffers with the latest US government positions and assessments related to Albania, current political issues in the country, the ongoing deadlock between the government and opposition parties, and the Albanian counterparts the delegation will meet the following day. The meeting will also allow staff to ask questions of the Embassy team to deepen their understanding of relevant issues ahead of the meetings with foreign counterparts.

**Location:** Presidential Palace Rruga e Elbasanit,  
Tirana 1044, Albania

**Relevance:** The meeting will offer the delegation an opportunity to hear the President's viewpoint on the current domestic political situation and stalemate between the government and the opposition as well as on Albania's domestic reform efforts in the context of its EU candidacy status.

**Location:** Office of the Prime Minister  
Blv. Dëshmorët e Kombit 1  
Tirana, Albania

**Relevance:** The meeting will allow the staffers to gain a deeper understanding of the Prime Minister's domestic priorities with regard to the current political situation in Albania as well as his government's

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12:30 p.m.- 2:00 p.m. **Working Lunch Meeting with the Chairwomen of the Foreign Affairs Committee of Albania Ms. Mimi Kodheli and Foreign Affairs Committee Members**

**Location:** Parliament of the Republic of Albania  
Boulevard "Dëshmorët e Kombit" Nr.4  
Tirana, Albania

**Topics:** Albania's foreign policy priorities, US-Albania relations, EU candidacy

2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. **Mr. Ditmir Bushati**, *Member of the Parliament*, Republic of Albania, and *Chairman*, Albanian Parliamentary Delegation to the OSCE

**Location:** Parliament of the Republic of Albania  
Boulevard "Dëshmorët e Kombit" Nr.4  
Tirana, Albania



**Topics:** Foreign policy challenges and priorities, Albania's role in the wider Balkans

3:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.

**Lulzim Basha, Chair, Democratic Party (DP)**

**Klajda Giosha, Deputy Chair, Socialist Movement for Integration (LSI)**

**Topics:** Albania's domestic political situation, EU candidacy

4:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

**Location:** US Embassy to the Republic of Albania  
Rruga e Elbasanit, No. 103  
Tirana, Albania

**Topics:** Albania's domestic political situation, domestic reform agenda

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**Location:** The Plaza  
Rruga 28 Nentori, 1001  
Tirana, Albania

Note: Optional dinner for those delegation members who want to participate and debrief.

9:00 p.m.



## Wednesday, May 29

2:30 a.m. Check out and Transfer to Tirana Airport

4:30 a.m. **Depart Tirana for Belgrade**

Location: Tirana International Airport  
Flight number: JU 217  
Airline: Air Serbia

5:45 a.m. Arrive at Belgrade Airport

Transfer to Hotel

6:30 a.m. Early Check in

**Metropol Palace**

Bulevar kralja Aleksandra 69, 11000

Belgrade

Telephone: +381 11 3333100

Web site: <https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/beglc-metropol-palace-a-luxury-collection-hotel-belgrade/>

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Downtime

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. **Country Briefing with The Hon. Kyle Randolph Scott, Ambassador of the United States to the Republic of Serbia**

**Location:** Metropol Palace

**Briefers:** **Ambassador Kyle Randolph Scott**  
US Embassy Staff

**Topics:** Background briefing on meetings with Serbian government officials and US government positions and assessments of Serbian domestic politics and foreign policy.

**Relevance:** The briefing will familiarize staffers with the latest US government positions and assessments on current Serbian domestic and foreign policy issues and the ongoing Dialogue between Serbia and Kosovo. The meeting will also allow staff to ask questions of the Embassy team to deepen their understanding of relevant issues ahead of the meetings with foreign counterparts.

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## Wednesday, May 29 – continued

9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **Meeting with Prime Minister Cabinet – Roundtable with Policy Team Leads**

**Location:** Nemanjina 11 Belgrade, Serbia  
**POC:** [djordje.milosevic@gov.rs](mailto:djordje.milosevic@gov.rs)  
**Topics:** Serbian government priorities for economic development, competitiveness, innovation policy, and digital transformation.  
**Relevance:** This staff-to-staff meeting will bring together the leads of the key economic policy teams in the Prime Minister's Office together with the visiting congressional staff delegation to discuss the Prime Minister's agenda for Serbia's economic development, with special emphasis on attracting increased foreign direct investment and positioning Serbia as a leader in the digital technology transformation. Staffers will be able to exchange views with Serbian counterparts on the crucial dimension of economic policy.

10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. **Meeting with Dr. Tanja Mišćević, Head of the Negotiating Team for the Accession of the Republic of Serbia to the European Union**

**Location:** Nemanjina 11 Belgrade, Serbia  
**POC:** Tamara Bosilj  
**Topics:** Serbia's EU accession candidacy and negotiations, domestic reform agenda.  
**Relevance:** This meeting with the head of Serbia's EU accession negotiation team will allow the staffers to hear the perspectives of the Serbian government on progress in the accession talks and on related domestic reform efforts. The group will be able to compare those to the EU assessments and US government perspectives.

11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. **Meeting with H.E. Ana Brnabić, Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia**

**Location:** Nemanjina 11 Belgrade, Serbia  
**POC:** Đorđe Milošević, *Foreign Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister*  
**Email:** [djordje.milosevic@gov.rs](mailto:djordje.milosevic@gov.rs)  
**Topics:** Serbian government's domestic and foreign policy challenges and priorities, domestic economic reform agenda, and EU accession candidacy.  
**Relevance:** Staffers will be able to gain a first-hand understanding of the Prime Minister's foreign policy priorities with regard to Serbia-Kosovo relations but also the wider Balkan region and foreign actors, including the United States, the EU, Russia, and China. Building on the discussion with her Cabinet policy leads and the government's lead EU accession negotiator, respectively, the delegation will also have an opportunity to discuss the Prime Minister's passionate focus on economic and digitization policies and progress in EU accession related reforms.

## Wednesday, May 29 – continued

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Meeting with H.E. Aleksandar Vučić, President of the Republic of Serbia**

**Location:** Presidential Palace of Serbia  
Andrićev venac 1,  
11000 Belgrade, Serbia

**Topics:** Belgrade-Pristina dialogue and Serbia-Kosovo relations, Serbian foreign policy challenges and priorities, US-Serbia relations, domestic reform agenda and EU accession candidacy.

**Relevance:** Staffers will be able to gain a first-hand understanding of the President's outlook on the key issues in the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue, potential ways forward in Serbia-Kosovo relations, and the recent Berlin summit, all of which have region-wide implications. The group will furthermore be able to discuss how to improve US-Serbia relations against the backdrop of the 1999 conflict. The group will also be able to learn about the President's agenda with regard to domestic reform and the related negotiations for EU accession.

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. **Meeting with H.E. Nebojša Stefanović, Deputy Prime Minister**

**Location:** Nemanjina 11 Belgrade, Serbia

**Topics:** Serbian foreign policy challenges and priorities, Serbia's role in the region, US-Serbia relations, domestic reform agenda, and foreign influence.

**Relevance:** The meeting will offer staffers a better understanding of the assessment of Serbia's key challenges in the Balkans, relations with Kosovo and other neighbors in the region, and Serbia's priorities with regard to these issue areas. The group will furthermore be able to discuss how to improve US-Serbia relations against the backdrop of the 1999 conflict and broader regional challenges, such as foreign influence efforts by actors such as Russia, China, Turkey, and Middle Eastern countries.

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Vuc Jeremic, President, People's Party, and 2017 presidential candidate**

**Location:** People's Party Headquarters  
Maršala Birjuzova 47,  
Belgrade, Serbia

**Topics:** Current domestic political agenda and situation, Serbian foreign policy challenges and priorities.

**Relevance:** The meeting will allow staffers to hear the perspectives of a key opposition representative with international experience as Serbia's former foreign minister and a UN official on the current political dynamics in Serbia and compare these with the viewpoints of the government representatives. The group will also be able to learn about opposition positions on relations with Kosovo, US-Serbia relations, and EU accession.





## Thursday, May 30 – continued

### 9:45 p.m. – 10:45 p.m. Meeting with Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project

**Location:** Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project Offices  
46 Makenzijeve Street,  
Belgrade, Serbia

**Topics:** Trends in crime and corruption in Serbia and the wider region.

**Relevance:** Founded in 2006 by Drew Sullivan and Paul Radu, the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) is a non-profit media organization providing an investigative reporting platform for the OCCRP Network. OCCRP is operated by the Journalism Development Network, a US-based 501(c)3 organization dedicated to improving reporting and newsroom management around the world. OCCRP representatives in Serbia will brief the staffers on the extent, nature, and trends of organized crime activity and corruption in the Balkans region. Staffers will also be able to explore and gain a better understanding of the challenges in the area and possible policy responses in the region and for the United States.

### 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Roundtable with Civil Society Representatives

**Location:** US Embassy

**Topics:** Human rights, freedom of the media, governance and institutional reform.

**Relevance:** Staffers will meet with a cross-section of civil society representatives working on media freedom (which has recently come into sharper focus in Serbia), human rights, crime, and corruption. They will be able to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges facing Serbia in these areas and hear assessments of domestic reform efforts from non-government experts, allowing them to compare these with government assessments shared in prior meetings.

### 12:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Visit to Science Technology Park Belgrade

**Location:** Nemanjina 11 Belgrade, Serbia

**Topics:** Serbian competitiveness, innovation policy, and digital transformation, US-Serbia business links.

**Relevance:** The Science Technology Park Belgrade is intended for startups and growing high-tech development companies (SMEs and development centers of international companies), helping them develop and commercialize innovative products and services. STP Belgrade has been established as a partnership between the Republic of Serbia Government, the City of Belgrade and the University of Belgrade, based on international experiences and best practices, thus becoming a place where Institutions meet Science and Industry. The staffers will receive a tour of the STP, allowing to learn first-hand about innovation, investment, and digitization efforts discussed with the Prime Minister's Office. The visit to STP will furthermore include a meeting with the Digital Serbia Initiative to learn about business perspectives on digitization policies in the country. The Digital Serbia Initiative is a non-governmental, non-profit organization advocating



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4:30 p.m.

6:35 p.m.

7:20 p.m.

**8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. The Hon. Judy Rising Reinke, Ambassador of the United States to Montenegro**

10:00 p.m.

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## Friday, May 31

**8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Bilateral Meetings with Senior Government Representatives, including:**

**H.E. Milo Đukanović, President of Montenegro**

**Location:** Hotel Splendid

**Topics:** Montenegro foreign policy priorities, domestic political developments, foreign influence.

**Relevance:** Staffers will be able to gain a first-hand understanding of the President's outlook on the key issues in the region, especially in relation to the regional implications of the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue after his participation at the April 29 Berlin summit. The delegation will also have an opportunity to discuss the domestic political development in the country following the attempted coup and government crisis of 2016. Staffers will also be able to hear about Montenegro's unique perspective on foreign influence in the region, given experiences with Russian meddling and Chinese investment.

**H.E. Duško Marković, Prime Minister of Montenegro**

**Location:** Hotel Splendid

**Topics:** Domestic political developments, Montenegro foreign policy priorities, Montenegro's role in NATO.

**Relevance:** Staffers will be able to discuss the domestic political development in the country following the attempted coup and government crisis of 2016 with the Prime Minister. They will also have an opportunity to discuss the government's foreign policy priorities, especially with regard to Montenegro's recent NATO accession. The meeting will also allow the staffers to gain a better understanding about how the government intends to address growing concerns over public debt related to major Chinese infrastructure investments.

10:00 a.m. **Official Opening 2BS (to be secure) forum**

**10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Panel 1: “Western Balkans: Gremlins of the Past and Fairy Tales of the Future”**

**Location:** Conference Hall Petrović, Hotel Splendid

**Panel Topics:** *From the conference organizers: The Western Balkans have, like the rest of Europe, been experiencing “the very taste” of geopolitics, with growing influence of Russia, China and Turkey that are exercising their role and influence in the region through carefully crafted soft power “recipes” and offer different visions and frameworks for the region. But to be fair, many of the region’s problems are still internal. From the Serbia-Kosovo dispute, ethnic tensions and divisions in Bosnia and Herzegovina to high corruption and unemployment rate and generally unenviable economic situation. These issues in combination with lurking external influences can have a crucial impact in shaping the future of this region. However, not everything is gloomy, Montenegro marks this year its second anniversary of NATO membership and has made important progress towards its EU membership.*

**Relevance:** Staffers will hear a combination of regional, US, and European policy-maker perspectives on the region-wide challenges, possible ways forward, as well as the role of, and expectations toward, the United States and the European Union.

**Location:** Conference Hall Petrović, Hotel Splendid

**Relevance:** Staffers will hear a combination of regional, US, and European policy-maker perspectives on the current and future role of NATO.

## Friday, May 31 – continued

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. **Bilateral Meetings with Senior Government Representatives, including:**

**H.E. Mr. Zoran Zaev, *Prime Minister of North Macedonia***

**Location:** Hotel Splendid

**Topics:** Name change agreement with Greece, North Macedonia's NATO accession and EU candidacy, domestic reform agenda.

**Relevance:** The meeting will allow staffers to discuss with the Prime Minister his critical role in securing the Prespa Agreement with Greece, widely hailed as one of the most significant success stories in the region which has paved the way for North Macedonia's NATO accession. The exchange of views will also offer an opportunity for the staffers to update the Prime Minister on the process for congressional approval of the country's NATO accession. The meeting will also allow staffers to better understand the Prime Minister's domestic reform priorities.

**H.E. Igor Crnadak, *Minister of Foreign Affairs for Bosnia and Herzegovina***

**Location:** Hotel Splendid

**Topics:** Current domestic situation in Bosnia Herzegovina.

**Relevance:** The meeting will allow staffers to better understand the dynamics of the current political gridlock between communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina since the last election.

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Panel: "Three Shades of Red: Russia, China and Turkey – Changing Global Power Dynamics?"**

**Location:** Conference Hall Petrović, Hotel Splendid

**Panel Topics:** *From the conference organizers:* For decades, the United States has been "a shining city upon a hill" that led and shaped international - unipolar order, peerless in its influence over the rest of the globe. But power constellations across the globe are shifting and the world order we know is struggling to endure these shifts. Rise of the new global and medium powers that deny important aspects of the world order, as well as the surge of many non-state actors, sub and supranational entities increasingly challenge the order and existing power constellation creating a space for alliances which otherwise would be unlikely to happen. With "America First" policy of President Trump and growing skepticism toward some of the major international topics, such as global trade and climate changes, the World's only superpower is turning inward, leaving an opening for other global and medium powers - Russia, China, Turkey- to seize the larger power slices and play more prominent role on global chessboard, shaping the order by its own measure and size. Russia and China are steadily forming closer economic and strategic relations and together with Turkey starting to align on some of the pressing international issues, exercising stronger influence across different regions and countries. Is the "great new partnership" among the three looming behind the corner and can it usurp the global power



**Relevance:** Staffers will hear a combination of regional, US, and European policy-maker perspectives on geopolitical competition in the Balkans as one of the most pressing challenges affecting the region.

**Mr. Thomas Silberhorn; Parliamentary State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, Federal Republic of Germany**

**Location:** Hotel Splendid  
**Topics:** German policy priorities in the Balkans and on NATO and EU accession.

<b>Location:</b>	Hotel Splendid
<b>Topics:</b>	Debrief on overall program.
<b>Relevance:</b>	Staffers will share key takeaways from the entire program government. Otherwise social occasion.

## Saturday, June 1

10:05 a.m. **Depart Tivat for Munich (MUC)**  
Location: Tivat Airport  
Flight number: LH 1733  
Airline: Lufthansa



## **Saturday, June 1 – continued**

11:50 a.m.                    **Arrive Munich International Airport (MUC)**

4:25 p.m.                    **Depart Munich (MUC) for Washington, D.C. (IAD)**  
Location:                  Munich International Airport  
Flight number:          LH 414  
Airline:                    Lufthansa

7:25 p.m.                    **Arrive at Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD)**

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